MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : Sir I move the following Motion :—

> "That in pursuance of Clause (h) of sub-section (2) read with sub-section (4) of Section (5) of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 (61 of 1957), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House to be a member of the Advisory Council of the Delhi Development Authority".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Re: SERIOUS DROUGHT SITUATION IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, we have all seen that the Prime Minister has made a public address to the nation about the serious drought situation in some parts of the country. But till now, we have no intimation to the House that the Government is going to come to the House with a comprehensive statement, letting us know about the seriousness of the situation. Now, since Parliament is in session, in all appropriateness, the Government should have come to the House and informed us about that. This is one issue over which there could a national consensus.

We appreciate that the Prime Minister has made an address to the nation, but there is no information before the House.

Sir, this is very very irregular.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I am supporting him. Members should get an opportunity. Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have been seriously affected, and Members should get an opportunity to explain the ground-level situation there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

I request the Government to have a discussion on this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : Sir,

today morning, there was a demand from various Members that this matter should be discussed in the House, and Government is willing to have a discussion on this tomorrow afternoon.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): We have given notice for a Short Duration Discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes; we are going to admit it now. ...*(Interruptions)* ....

BILL INTRODUCED

THE COAL MINES (NATIONALISATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2000

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The question was proposed.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I have a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On what?

SHRI JIBON ROY: The Bill is unconstitutional. I have a submission. The Bill for denationalisation of coal mines has not been circulated. This is one thing.

Secondly, coal mines were nationalised. Coal mines are the property of the nation. This House has sanctioned money in every budget for them. Through a blanket Bill, he cannot take the authority to denationalise every mine. The Government has to come up for denationalisation of mines, mine-wise and colliery-wise. The Government cannot take, through an Act, the blanket authority for denationalisation of the entire mines. Therefore, the Bill is unconstitutional. The Government, as such, cannot dispose of them in that way, without taking the mine-wise and colliery-wise permission of the House. Therefore, it is unconstitutional. The Government cannot bring in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as the circulation of the Bill is concerned, I am informed that it was circulated on the 20th of April.